

2015 DAC Achievement Award Nomination Form

Nominee Information

Nominee Name: Jim Briscoe

Nominee Address: Valley Iron Inc.

Nominee Phone:

Nominee Email:

Nominator Information

Nominator Name: Dr. Janice Emerzian

Nominator Address: Fresno City College
1101 E University Ave., Fresno, Calif 937541

Nominator Phone:

Nominator Email:

Nomination Category (please select one):

- ☒ Individual
- ☐ Organization
- ☐ City of Fresno Employee or Department

Nominated for:

- ☒ Improving the quality of life for individuals with disabilities
- ☐ Advocacy for issues pertaining to individuals with disabilities
- ☐ Volunteerism that has a positive impact on individuals with disabilities
- ☐ Development of new programs or services impacting individuals with disabilities
- ☒ Customer service to individuals with disabilities that is above and beyond the standard
- ☐ Innovation or Entrepreneurship by an individual with a disability or that has a positive impact on individuals with disabilities

Nomination Statement

Give a brief description (300-500 words) of why you feel your nominee should receive this award. Attach two to six letters from people able to provide supporting testimony (peers, parents, students, clients, etc.), additional supporting materials, and photo of nominee (optional). Attach additional pages if necessary.

Jim Brisco, through Valley Iron, established the Briscoe Family Charitable Foundation to give back to the communities that have supported their family and business for so many years. At the request of Daniel Delgado, a person with a disability, Mr. Briscoe continues to provide Daniel and others, at no cost, un-fabricated materials in order to assist individuals needing refurbished wheel chairs, accessible ramps for their houses, lifts for their vans so that they could transfer from their wheel chair into their vans, and so much more. Jim's giving nature through Daniel has had major impact on improving the quality of life for so many persons with disabilities.

Jim has also created scholarships through their Foundation to help students with disabilities achieve their dreams by continuing their education after high school and become self-sufficient. He has provided these students with needed scholarships if they have a disability or even if they come from a family that has other members with disabilities. He feels that by doing this he is helping them create a "better tomorrow" for all of us.

Mr. Brisco provided funds needed to build "Terry's House" at Community Hospital, which is a place for families to stay at night and support a loved one facing an extended stay in the hospital. He discovered that often a person recovering from an accident, stroke, serious illness and/or members of their families may acquire some a disability due to the stressful situation, yet do not have adequate financial or emotional support. He has been proud to be able to provide funds for Terry's House" to comfort these families during this very stressful time.

Additionally, Jim has supported the Hinds Hospice "Angel Babies" walk/run for a number of years and has been the major sponsor of the "Angel Babies Time to Remember" each Fall. He feels that it is so important that these families know they can and should have loving memories of a child lost at birth and that there is help through their journey of grief.

Jim has also been deeply committed and involved with the State Center Community College Foundation, where his generosity has touched our 5,000 students with disabilities reach their maximum achievements and goals.

Because of all these efforts, Jim Briscoe has not only earned my respect but gratitude of those individuals with disabilities for whom he has generously supported and thus I proudly nominate him for this award.



Fresno City College

1101 East University Avenue, Fresno, California 93741 • Phone: 559-442-8237 Voice TDD • FAX: 559-442-8242

Disabled Students Programs & Services

July 27, 2015

Dear Selection Committee,

It is with great pleasure I nominate Mr. Jim Briscoe for the "City of Fresno Disability Advisory Commission's 2015 Achievement Award" in recognition for his tireless efforts in improving the quality of life and customer service to individuals with disabilities.

Jim Briscoe, married in 1983 to Lee Anne, moved to Fresno the same year to purchase a 25 year old steel distribution business, Valley Iron Inc. He has two sons actively involved in the business and 4 grandchildren, ages 5-17, that he hopes will become part of the business in the future. He started with 7 employees in 1983, and today has over 100 employees working with him in Fresno and a second location in Northern California. Valley Iron Inc. distributes un-fabricated Carbon Steel, Stainless Steel, and Aluminum products from Bakersfield to cities north of Sacramento and also throughout the Central Coast, including the Bay Area. In 2010 they established the Briscoe Family Charitable Foundation to give back to the communities that have supported their family and business for so many years. Prior to 2010, one individual in particular, either consciously or subconsciously, provided inspiration to Jim and members of his family to help individuals with disabilities to "give back to others and change lives within their community". This is when Jim met Daniel Delgado, a person with a disability who often came to Valley Iron to request material for projects for other people with disabilities. Mr. Briscoe did not hesitate to provide Daniel and others un-fabricated materials so that he could help individuals that needed items such as refurbished wheel chairs, accessible ramps for their houses, lifts for their vans so that they could transfer from their wheel chair into their vans, and so much more. Over the years, Jim has unselfishly given products to Daniel, who had polio as a child and uses a wheelchair himself, so that he could continue his work in providing other persons with disabilities, who have limited financial resources, the opportunity to receive desperately needed mobility products. Jim's giving nature through Daniel has had major impact on improving the quality of life for so many persons with disabilities. Jim has said that it has been a privilege and honor to support Daniel and others to receive whatever material they need at no cost so that they can do good work for other persons with disabilities. Helping individuals with disabilities receive what they need to become independent has been a passion for Jim.

Jim has also created scholarships through their Foundation prior to and certainly since 2010, which have helped many students with disabilities achieve their dreams so that they could continue their education after high school and become self-sufficient. He has provided these students with needed

scholarships if they have a disability or even if they come from a family that has other members with disabilities. He feels that by doing this he is helping them create a "better tomorrow" for all of us. Jim has felt that disabilities often come about at most inopportune time. A few years ago he helped to provide funds needed to build "Terry's House" at Community Hospital, which is a place for families to stay at night and support a loved one, if that individual is facing an extended stay in the hospital. He discovered that often a person recovering from an accident, stroke, serious illness and/or members of their families may acquire some a disability due to the stressful situation, yet do not have adequate financial or emotional support. He has been proud to be able to provide funds for Terry's House" to comfort these families during this very stressful time.

Jim believes that challenges in life and a potential disability are not always physical. Losing a child at birth or soon after is very heartbreaking for a mom and/or a new dad. What is staggering is how the efforts of one person, one particular person can truly make a difference in addressing this problem. He has thus supported the Hinds Hospice "Angel Babies" walk/run for a number of years and has been the major sponsor of the "Angel Babies Time to Remember" each fall. He feels that it is so important that these families know they can and should have loving memories of a child lost at birth and that there is help thru their journey of grief.

In addition to all the above, Jim has been deeply committed and involved with the State Center Community College Foundation, where his generosity has touched our 5,000 students with disabilities reach their maximum achievements and goals. He has given his commitment to help support additional needs of these students in the future. He says that his family is thankful that they have been blessed and are able to give back, support, and include in their giving, even in a small way, individuals with disabilities, who are working to meet every challenge that "life sends their way". He shared with me a favorite quote by Macklemore, a musician, wrote: "I don't control life – but I can control how I react to it". When speaking to him regarding this nomination, he quickly gave Daniel Delgado credit as one of the best examples he had met of how you can react to a disability in a most positive way! Jim Briscoe shares that he is proud to follow Daniel's lead and support his work and that of others with disabilities on their journey to success. Because of all these efforts, Jim Briscoe has not only earned my respect but gratitude of those individuals with disabilities for whom he has generously supported and thus I proudly nominate him for this award.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janice Emerzian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Janice" being more prominent and the last name "Emerzian" following in a similar style.

Dr. Janice Emerzian

District Director Disabled Students Programs and Services
State Center Community College District

DANIEL DELGADO

July 27, 2015

Dear Disability Commission Members,

I am pleased to nominate Mr. Jim Briscoe for the City of Fresno Disability Advisory Commission 2015 Achievement Award. I have known Jim for several years, and as a person with a disability myself, who had polio as a child and use a wheelchair for my mobility, I have been very proud to be the recipient of his generous nature. He is very deserving of this award in that he is intelligent, successful, kind and giving. He always goes out of his way to assist me and others with disabilities get what we need to become more independent and successful. He has done this by giving me products from his company that he could otherwise sell, so I can create needed adaptive equipment and items for other persons with disabilities so that they can be more mobile and independent. I've developed enormous respect for his dedication to his own company and family as well as helping persons like me and others that have disabilities. Many local heroes go unnoticed, so I ask you to not overlook Jim as a perfect recipient of this award since I feel that without him I could not have continued to do the work that I do in building ramps, wheelchairs, walkers and other adaptive equipment that so many of our fellow persons with disabilities who need this equipment, yet do not have the funds to purchase these costly items, can be supported. On a personal note Jim is a kind, warm, and cheerful man who even though he operates a successful and intense business, still makes the time to help me and so many others. For this and all that he has done for me and so many in our community with disabilities, I proudly support him for the DAC 2015 Achievement Award.

Sincerely,



Daniel Delgado